

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 2, AMEND claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 9 and ADD new claim 10 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A conveyor system for conveying a wafer or other thin workpiece having a thickness of not more than 100 μm from its carrying location to another location, wherein comprising:

~~said conveyor system is provided with~~ a plate-shaped member provided movably and swivelably and a moving; and

swiveling means for moving and swiveling said plate-shaped member;

~~said plate-shaped member is~~ being provided together with a lifting means for uniformly lifting in its entirety a workpiece carried at said carrying location and a holding means for holding a workpiece lifted by said lifting means, by uniformly chucking its entirety on a workpiece chucking surface of said plate-shaped member;

said holding means being comprised of a plurality of vacuum chucking nozzles; and
a plurality of Verneuil-Bernoulli nozzles serving as said lifting means are formed in the workpiece chucking surface near an outer periphery of said plate-shaped member along said outer periphery; and

said plurality of Bernoulli nozzles and said plurality of vacuum chucking nozzles being alternately formed on the workpiece chucking surface near the outer periphery of said plate-shaped member along said outer periphery.

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A conveyor system as set forth in claim 21, wherein a chucking pad of a vacuum chucking nozzle uses a porous member.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A conveyor system as set forth in claim 1, A conveyor system for conveying a wafer or other thin workpiece having a thickness of not more than 100~~

um from its carrying location to another location, comprising:

a plate-shaped member provided movably and swivelably;
moving and swiveling means for moving and swiveling said plate-shaped member;
said plate-shaped member being provided together with a lifting means for uniformly
lifting in its entirety a workpiece carried at said carrying location and a holding means for holding
a workpiece lifted by said lifting means, by uniformly chucking its entirety on a workpiece
chucking surface of said plate-shaped member;

said holding means being comprised of at least one electrostatic chucking plate; and
wherein

said electrostatic chucking plate is being provided at the workpiece chucking surface of
said plate-shaped member.

a plurality of Bernoulli nozzles serving as said lifting means formed in the workpiece
chucking surface near an outer periphery of said plate-shaped member along said outer
periphery;

a controller to control drive timings of said lifting means and said holding means; and
a detachment prevention member to prevent part of the workpiece lifted by the plurality of
Bernoulli nozzles from being detached from said plate-shaped member, provided at the outer
periphery of the plate-shaped member, and biased by an elastic member in a direction where its
front end projects out from the workpiece chucking surface of the plate-shaped member.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A conveyor system as set forth in claim 1, wherein
further comprising a controller for controlling to control drive timings of said lifting means and
said holding means is provided.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A conveyor system as set forth in claim 1, wherein
further comprising a detachment prevention member for preventing to prevent part of the
workpiece lifted by the plurality of Verneuil-Bernoulli nozzles from being detached from said
plate-shaped member, is provided at the outer periphery of the plate-shaped member.

7. (ORIGINAL) A conveyor system as set forth in claim 6, wherein said detachment
prevention member is biased by an elastic member in a direction where its front end projects out
from the workpiece chucking surface of the plate-shaped member.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A conveyor system as set forth in claim 1, wherein

further comprising provision is made of a switching station provided with a plurality of pressurized air blowing nozzles blowing pressurized air from below said workpiece so as to prevent said workpiece from dropping off when switching a workpiece lifted by said lifting means comprised of a plurality of Verneuil-Bernoulli nozzles to holding by said holding means.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A conveyance method of conveying a wafer or other thin workpiece having a thickness of not more than 100 μm from its carrying location to another location using a conveyor system as set forth in claim 1, including the steps of having a plate-shaped member, a plurality of Bernoulli nozzles to serve as lifting means, and a plurality of vacuum chucking nozzles to serve as holding means with the Bernoulli nozzles and the vacuum chucking nozzles being alternately formed on a workpiece chucking surface near an outer periphery of the plate-shaped member along the outer periphery, the method comprising:

moving the plate-shaped member to a first position on which a workpiece is placed,

lowering the plate-shaped member down to the workpiece;

starting the blowing of air from the Verneuil-Bernoulli nozzles;

chucking the workpiece by the Verneuil-Bernoulli nozzles;

lifting up the plate-shaped member;

starting suction by the vacuum chucking nozzles to chuck the workpiece by both of the vacuum chucking nozzles and Verneuil-Bernoulli nozzles;

stopping the blowing of air from the Verneuil-Bernoulli nozzles and chucking the workpiece by only the vacuum chucking nozzles; and

moving said the plate-shaped member to a second position for processing of the next workpiece.

10. (NEW) A conveyor system as set forth in claim 4, further comprising a switching station provided with a plurality of pressurized air blowing nozzles to blow pressurized air from below said workpiece so as to prevent said workpiece from dropping off when switching a workpiece lifted by said lifting means comprised of a plurality of Bernoulli nozzles to holding by said holding means.

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the Specification and claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 9 have been amended. New claim 10 has been added. Claims 1 and 3-10 are pending and under consideration.